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Security Council

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 7413th meeting of the Security Council, held on 24 March 2015, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council underscores the seriousness and urgency of the situation in South Sudan, as demonstrated by its 3 March 2015 unanimous adoption of UNSC Resolution 2206 (2015) establishing a UN sanctions regime for those undermining the peace, security or stability of South Sudan, with initial dates for the Council's review of 5 March 2015 and 1 April 2015, and demanding that the parties commit to finding a comprehensive agreement and calling upon all parties to armed conflict in South Sudan to issue clear orders prohibiting all violations of international humanitarian law and human rights violations and abuses without further delay.

"In this regard, the Security Council expresses its profound disappointment that President Salva Kiir, former Vice President Riek Machar and all parties have failed to conclude an agreement on the transitional arrangements outlined in the 1 February 2015 Areas of Agreement on the Establishment of the Transitional Government of National Unity in the Republic of South Sudan signed by the Republic of South Sudan and the SPLM/A (in Opposition) by the 5 March 2015 deadline set by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). In this context the Security Council reiterates its willingness to impose sanctions against those who threaten the peace, security or stability of South Sudan.

"The Security Council reiterates its strong condemnation of the repeated violations of the Cessation of Hostilities (CoH) Agreement accepted and signed by the Republic of South Sudan and the SPLM/A (in Opposition) on 23 January 2014, and emphasizes that the actions of President Salva Kiir and former Vice President Riek Machar in continuing to pursue a military solution to this conflict are in breach of their obligations under the CoH Agreement.

"The Security Council commends IGAD, as supported by the United Nations and African Union, for its relentless work in establishing a forum for political and security dialogue, establishing and operationalizing the Monitoring and Verification Mechanism for the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement, and leading multi-stakeholder political negotiations to establish a Transitional Government of National Unity.

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"The Security Council takes note of the 6 March 2015 message from Ethiopia's Prime Minister and Chairman of IGAD Hailemariam Dessalegn to the people of South Sudan explaining that the peace talks did not produce the necessary breakthrough.

"The Security Council welcomes IGAD's intention, joined by the friends of South Sudan from Africa and abroad, including the United Nations, to implement a common plan and to table a reasonable and comprehensive solution to end the crisis in South Sudan and urges all parties to engage meaningfully in the peace process so to bring about a political resolution of the crisis and an end to the violence.

"The Security Council reiterates its intent to impose any sanctions that may be appropriate to respond to the situation, which may include an arms embargo and the designation of senior individuals responsible for actions or policies that threaten the peace, security or stability of South Sudan, so as to encourage the Government of South Sudan and opposition forces to form a Transitional Government of National Unity, take effective and comprehensive steps to cause forces under direct or indirect control to cease military operations, acts of violence, as well as violations of human rights, and enable full access for humanitarian assistance.

"The Security Council renews its deep appreciation for the courageous actions taken and on-going by United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) personnel and troop- and police-contributing countries for the protection of civilians and the stabilization of the security situation, and reiterates its support to UNMISS.

"The Security Council reaffirms its deep concern that the conflict has resulted in great human suffering, including significant loss of life, displacement of two million people, and the loss of property, further impoverishing and disadvantaging the people of South Sudan.

"The Security Council further underscores the significant importance of fighting impunity and ensuring accountability for serious violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law in South Sudan including those that may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity.

"The Security Council renews its calls for parties to the conflict to allow and facilitate, in accordance with relevant provisions of international law and United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian assistance, the full, safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel, equipment and supplies to all those in need and timely delivery of humanitarian assistance.

"The Security Council recognizes the work of the African Union Commission of Inquiry in investigating and documenting violations as well as abuses of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, anticipates with interest its findings and recommendations, encourages the public release of the final report as soon as possible, and welcomes the further engagement of the African Union to ensure justice and accountability, as well as healing and reconciliation.

"The Security Council looks forward to the rapid establishment of the 'Panel of Experts' which will play a central role in assisting the South Sudan Sanctions Committee, established in resolution 2206 (2015), including by providing it with information relevant to the potential designation of individuals and entities who may be engaging in the activities described in paragraphs 6 and 7 of resolution 2206 (2015).

"The Security Council reaffirms that it shall be prepared to adjust the measures contained in resolution 2206 (2015), including by strengthening through additional measures, as well as modification, suspension or lifting of the measures, as may be needed at any time in light of the progress achieved in the peace, accountability, and reconciliation process, and in light of the implementation of the parties' commitments, including the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement and other obligations specified in the preamble of said resolution, and compliance with it.

"The Security Council further reaffirms its support for the people of South Sudan, renews its steadfast commitment to the peace and security of South Sudan and the region, including through its full implementation of UNSC Resolution 2206 (2015), and echoes the IGAD Chairman's 6 March 2015 statement that the world stands with the people and peace will be achieved."

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 7433rd meeting of the Security Council, held on 24 April 2015, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in the Middle East", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council *recalls* its resolutions 2042 (2012), 2043 (2012), 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2175 (2014), 2191 (2014), and its Presidential Statements of 3 August 2011 and 2 October 2013.

"The Security Council *reaffirms* its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Syria and all other States affected by the Syrian conflict, and to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

"The Security Council *expresses grave alarm* at the significant and rapid deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Syria, including at the fact that over 220,000 people have been killed, including well over 10,000 children since the beginning of the conflict; around half of the population has been forced to flee their homes, including over 3.9 million who have sought refuge in neighbouring countries, among which are nearly 2.1 million children; and that more than 12.2 million people in Syria require urgent humanitarian assistance including 440,000 civilians in besieged areas.

"The Security Council demands that all parties to the Syrian domestic conflict immediately put an end to all forms of violence and *reiterates* that all parties to the Syrian domestic conflict, in particular the Syrian authorities, must comply with their applicable obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law and respect human rights, and *reiterates* its demand that they fully and immediately implement the provisions of its resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), and 2191 (2014), particularly through facilitating the expansion of humanitarian relief operations, and the immediate delivery of humanitarian assistance to hard-to-reach and besieged areas across borders and conflict lines.

"The Security Council *is alarmed* that the Syrian crisis has become the largest humanitarian emergency crisis in the world today, threatening peace and security in the region with diverse implications on the neighbouring countries and the displacement of millions of Syrians into those countries, and *calls* to address further spill-over of the conflict in Syria into the neighbouring countries.

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"The Security Council further *calls* for coordinated international support to the neighbouring countries hosting Syrian refugees, at their request, in addressing legitimate security concerns and ensuring the safety and security of host communities and refugees, and countering radicalization, through inter alia the provision of support for effective border management and internal security measures.

"The Security Council *reiterates* its deep appreciation for the significant and admirable efforts that have been made by the countries of the region, notably Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt, to accommodate Syrian refugees and is *mindful* of the immense costs and multifaceted challenges incurred by these countries as a consequence of the crisis.

"The Security Council *notes with deep concern* that the crisis in Syria has had social, demographic, environmental and economic effects on neighbouring countries; which have exacerbated vulnerabilities; overstretched limited resources and basic social services such as health, water, sanitation, housing capacities, energy and education; aggravated unemployment; diminished trade and investment; and affected regional stability and security.

"The Security Council *emphasizes* the strain placed on host country education systems by the inflow of refugees and that additional resources will be required to help the 600,000 children outside the school system access quality education.

"The Security Council *underlines* the risk of further regional destabilization if the conflict, refugee crisis and the needs of the host countries are not adequately addressed. The Security Council *stresses* the importance of funding the humanitarian and development responses to the refugee crisis, providing support for national response plans, addressing the humanitarian needs of refugees, in particular women and children, both in camps and urban areas and through capacity building and technical support, strengthening the resilience of host countries and communities as components of stabilizing the region, preventing radicalization and countering the threat of terrorism and foreign terrorist fighters.

"The Security Council *notes* with concern that the international response to the Syrian and regional crisis continues to fall short of meeting the needs as assessed by host governments and the United Nations, and *urges* all Member States, based on burden-sharing principles, to support the United Nations and the countries of the region, including by adopting medium and long-term responses to alleviate the impact on communities, providing increased, flexible and multi-year predictable funding as well as increasing resettlement efforts, and taking note in this regard of the Berlin Communiqué of 28 October 2014.

"The Security Council *urges* donors, international financial institutions and UN agencies to consider financing instruments that effectively meet the unique needs of middle-income countries impacted by the Syrian conflict and address its massive structural impact on neighbouring countries.

"The Security Council *emphasizes* the importance of complying with applicable international humanitarian law and refugee law, promoting and protecting the human rights of all people affected by the crisis and respecting the United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian emergency assistance,

welcomes efforts by host countries in this regard and *urges* Member States to continue to help them in this effort.

"The Security Council *welcomes* the convening of the Third International Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria generously hosted by Kuwait on 31 March 2015 and the USD$3.6 billion pledges made and *calls on* all Member States to ensure the timely disbursement of pledges.

"The Security Council *emphasizes* that the humanitarian situation will continue to deteriorate in the absence of a political solution, *expresses* its full support for the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, Mr. Staffan de Mistura, and *reiterates* that the only sustainable solution to the current crisis in Syria is through an inclusive and Syrian-led political process that meets the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people, with a view to full implementation of the Geneva Communique of 30 June 2012 endorsed as annex II of its resolution 2118 (2013)."